

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 /057 W

-----091120Z 130373 /23

P R 091042Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3045

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 12633

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, TH, US

SUBJ: HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN
THAILAND

1. DURING LUNCHEON MEETING JUNE 9 WITH AMBASSADOR, FOREIGN MINISTER
UPPADIT REQUESTED FURTHER INFORMATION ON HEARINGS TO BE HELD IN
WASHINGTON BY CONGRESSMAN FRASER'S SUBCOMMITTEE ON SUBJECT OF
HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAILAND. UPPADIT SAID PUBLIC HEARING IS TO BE
HELD ON JUNE 23 AND CLOSED HEARING ON JUNE 30. TWO WITNESSES ARE
TO BE A FORMER PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN FIELD SERVICE IN THAILAND AND
SOMEONE FROM PRINCETON UNIVERSITY (NEITHER FURTHER IDENTIFIED). HE
SAID THE RTG WAS THINKING OF SENDING AN UNOFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE
TO ATTEND THE HEARING.

2. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION SECGEN OF MFA'S ASEAN DEPT, THEP
THEWAKUN, EXPRESSED TO EMBOFF ON JUNE 9 CONSIDERABLE ANXIETY THAT
PROSPECT OF THESE HEARINGS IS CREATING WITHIN RTG. HE SAID
GOVERNMENT FIRST BECAME AWARE OF THEM WHEN DEPARTMENT CALLED IN
THAI AMBASSADOR ARUN PHANUPHONG TO TELL HIM ABOUT THEM AND TO
SUGGEST THAT PARTICIPATION OF A NON-GOVERNMENTAL THAI WHO COULD
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EXPLAIN THE SITUATION IN HIS COUNTRY COULD BE HELPFUL. THEP SAID
THERE IS FEAR WITHIN THE RTG THAT FORMER THAMMASAT RECTOR, DR.
PUAI UNGPON, WOULD HAVE A HAND IN THE HEARINGS, WHICH WOULD
NOT BE APPRECIATED HERE. THEP SAID ANY PARTICIPATION IN THE HEAR-
INGS OF A THAI GOVERNMENTAL OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL PERSONALITY FROM
BANGKOK WOULD REQUIRE A POLITICAL DECISION AT A VERY HIGH LEVEL.
HE REQUESTED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE HEARINGS, AS THE

FOREIGN MINISTER HAD DONE WITH THE AMBASSADOR.

3. EMBASSY IS UNAWARE OF ANY IMPENDING HEARINGS AND REQUESTS
GUIDANCE FOR RESPONSE TO RTG. WE ARE SUBMITTING BY SEPTTEL LATEST
STATISTICS ON SITUATION OF PERSONS ARRESTED AS RESULT OF OCT
6 AND MAR 26 EVENTS AND THOSE HELD UNDER NARC ORDER 22. THEY
COMPRISE ALL OF THE "POLITICAL" PRISONERS IN THAILAND OF WHOM
WE ARE AWARE. PLEASE ADVISE IF ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS
REQUIRED FOR HEARINGS.

WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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